



The Future Begins Here

BLUEFIELD VA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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H. L. Cundiff, Chief of Police

To: Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Str. S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

From: H. L. Cundiff, Chief of Police

Date: May 12, 2008

Re: MB Docket No. 04-233

Ms. Dortch,

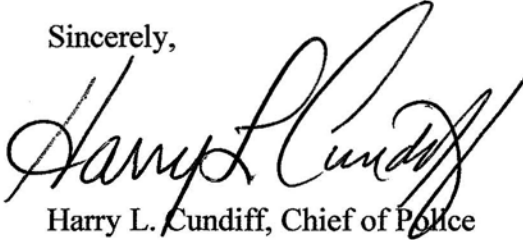
It has been brought to my attention that the FCC is considering new rules to regulate local programming, how information is gathered and even how we are supposed to communicate with each other. I as the Chief of Police for the Town of Bluefield VA would like to bring to your attention a few areas in which the media is of vital importance to our department. As you know, the local police department is a mandatory resource for maintaining a safe and peaceful environment for our citizens to live, work and have fun. Our relationship that we have developed with the media is a vital and useful tool in many ways:

1. We have developed working and personal relationships with members of various media outlets and we know them to be fair and accurate in reporting news worthy events.
2. Their coverage of criminal activities such as posting pictures of suspects, keeping the public informed, conducting interviews with me or other officers, getting contact information to the public to report any criminal activity, etc. is a valuable tool to our department.
3. Our department is involved with many Public Service/Safety campaigns and WVVA has been eager to assist in any way to raise public awareness of these events, such as:
 - a) Seatbelt Safety, (Click It or Ticket).
 - b) Child restraint/child seat safety.
 - c) Highway safety campaigns including speeding, D.U.I., CIOT, etc.
 - d) How to secure your home while on vacation, safe driving tips in inclement weather, etc.
4. We also are involved in various charitable fund raising events that WVVA not only advertises but they attend the events and conduct live broadcasts. For example; we host an annual event we call "Law Fit Challenge" and all the proceeds go to the 2nd Chance Learning Center. WVVA voluntarily announced the event regularly, which helps with fund raising, and they also attend the event, broadcasting live. WVVA also announces and attends our annual "Shop with a Cop" event, where we take underprivileged children and teenagers to Wal-marts' and to Goody's to let them shop and we buy the Christmas gifts for them.

We at the Bluefield VA PD do not see the need for more government interference concerning our relationship with our local media, whether it is TV, newspaper, or radio. We have worked together very well in the past and do not see any reason why this relationship will not continue. Our local media outlets have been very much involved in our communities therefore we do not see the need for any further Federal regulations telling them how to be involved in the communities that we all serve. If they were not already involved, they would not be in business.

We appreciate you taking the time in reading and considering our opinions in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harry L. Cundiff". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Harry L. Cundiff, Chief of Police